(c) Introduction of video conferencing as a mode to record statements of under trials whose personal presence is dispensed with, would facilitate speedy trial. In addition, it would also minimise the risk of escape of prisoners during transit from judicial custody to courts, and optimise utilisation of escort personnel.

(d) No such proposal is under consideration of the Central Government.

Pending cases in Allahabad High Court

†2043. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the courts under the jurisdiction of Allahabad High Court and Azamgarh District Court in which cases are pending for the last 3, 5, 7 and 10 years; and

(b) the steps being taken/guidelines being issued for speedy verdict disposal of the above cases?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) and (b) Information is being obtained from Allahabad High Court and on receipt of the information, it will be laid on the Table of the House.

Cases pending in Courts

2044. SHRI AMAR SINGH : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the existing number of the the cases pending in Supreme Court and various High Courts;

(b) the number of cases pending for the last ten years;

(c) whether Government have identified the reasons for the pendency of the cases for such a long time; and

(d) the steps Government propose to take for early disposal of the cases?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

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THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) There were 29,662 matters pending before the Supreme Court on 2.8.2004 and 32,69,224 cases were pending in High Courts on 30.6.2004.

(b) The required information is given in the Statement (See below).

(c) There are many reasons for pendency of cases in various courts. Some of these reasons include inadequacy of judge strength, non-filling up of vacancies of judges, Lawyers' strike and frequent adjournment of cases.

(d) The Government has been periodically monitoring the pendency position in various courts. The steps taken for speedy disposal of pending cases, include timely filling the vacancies of judges, increasing the judge strength, grouping of cases involving common questions of law, constitution of specialized benches, organizing Lok Adalats at regular intervals, encouraging alternative modes of dispute resolution like negotiation, mediation and arbitration and setting up of special tribunals like CentralAdministrative Tribunals, State Administrative Tribunals, Income Tax Appellate Tribunals, Family Courts, Labour Courts etc.

Statement

Pending cases in the courts for the last five years

No.	Year	Supreme Court	High Courts
1.	1999	20,334	32,65,300
2.	2000	22,145	34,33,335
3.	2001	22,722	34,24,100
4.	2002	24,335	38,24,000
5.	2003	26,750	33,68,226
6.	2004	29,662	32,69,224
		(as on 2.8.2004)	(as on 30.6.2004)